

COUNTY VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WESTCHESTER

White Plains Mall, 200 Hamilton Ave., White Plains, NY 10601

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Email: LWVwestchester@verizon.net

Website: www.lwvwestchester.org

September/October 2007

**The League of Women Voters of Westchester
Is sponsoring a seminar on**

“HOW TO READ A CAPITAL BUDGET”

Thursday, October 18, 2007
9:30 AM

Michaelian Office Building, 3rd Floor Budget Conference Room
Martine Avenue
White Plains

Anne Reasoner
Westchester County Budget Director
and
Arthur Vietro
Deputy Budget Director

will describe the ins and outs of a capital budget
and how it applies to the county and your own municipality

All Leaguers are invited

There will be time for questions and answers!

For more info, call Barbara Strauss, LWVW Budget Chair, 725-1713

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

If not the League, then who?

I hope everyone was able to find some time to relax this summer, and that you are enjoying an active fall filled with activities that include the League.

People have long associated the League name with nonpartisanship and impartiality--key attributes that are critical to holding fair elections, thereby protecting the fundamental right to vote and democracy. We're in the midst of the fall election season, and, carrying on the work of the dedicated women (and, yes, even some men) who came before us, many League members are contributing their efforts to Voter Service and related activities. A number of you began this effort in the summer with the initial contacting of candidates to collect information for the *Voters Guides*. How many of you have been told by folks in your community that the nonpartisan *Voters Guide* is an indispensable tool that they have come to rely on and carry to the voting booth on Election Day? This year, we're publishing four guides--one each for northern and southern Westchester, and for the third consecutive year, each *Voters Guide* will be available, separately, in Spanish and English.

Because of technological innovations, much more information is readily available via the Internet than ever before, and along with League members, there is a new generation of voters who are savvy about taking advantage of the Internet's capabilities and gathering detailed information rapidly. For some, the drive for political information stimulates a need, curiosity, and a desire to connect and express opinions (case in point: the rise of the political blogs). To serve the information needs of these voters, the Westchester League is participating in a pilot project, www.SmartVoter.org. With the click of a mouse, information about ballots, polling places, candidates, voter registration, and absentee ballots appears on a computer screen. At their fingertips, users can readily find out more information about specific candidates by linking to their websites. From a candidate perspective, the ability to communicate directly to voters is appealing--ideas are not spun or filtered through the lens of a media organization that may endorse an opponent. Please check out the SmartVoter.org website and encourage your friends and neighbors to drop by the site.

In addition to ensuring that the candidates have a nonpartisan written platform available, many League members are also engaged in moderating candidates' forums, thereby directly participating in the debate process and ensuring that candidates are treated fairly and impartially in these live events.

On behalf of the LWV of Westchester, I want to thank Claire Prohl, our interim Voter Service Chair, for her dedication, time and energy to spearheading the publication of the *Voters Guides* this year and leading the effort on SmartVoter.org. Thank you to Anne Cochran for your dedicated effort in launching SmartVoter.org. Thank you to Renee Baylor for your patience and the many hours you have spent preparing the *Voters guides*. Thank you to Laura Fratt for coordinating the moderators for the candidates' forums. Thank you also to each League member for your time and support of this unique organization. If we didn't perform these activities, which are critical to safeguarding democracy, who else would do it?

Mary Beth

LWVW LIST OF OFFICERS – 2007-08

President	Mary Beth Gose
First VP	Adelaide DiGiorgi
2 nd VP	Open
3 rd VP	Kitt Rosenthal
Treasurer	Sydelle Herzberg
Secretary	Ricki Gardner
Directors:	Ina Aronow
	Rinku Bhattacharya
	Renee Baylor
	Mary Beth Evans
	Laura Fratt
	Janet Jaidi
	Kristina McCarthy
	Laura Porter
	Claire Prohl
	Karen Schatzel
	Barbara Strauss
	Selma Thackeray

LOCAL LEAGUE ACTIVITIES

LARCHMONT/MAMARONECK and NEW ROCHELLE LWV – on Thursday, September 27 at 7 PM at the **New Rochelle Library** - are co-sponsoring, with the New Rochelle Library, the first program in their local study of US Immigration Policy. There will be a film: “**The History of Immigration to the Lower East Side**” provided by the Tenement Museum of the Lower East Side. The film was commissioned by the Museum from the History Channel. The guest speaker will be **Michele Wucker**, journalist and author of “Lockout: Why America Keeps Getting Immigration Wrong When our Prosperity Depends on Getting it Right” and a frequent contributor to MSNBC and other media outlets. She will discuss the history of immigration – myths and facts. This event is free and open to the public. No RSVP necessary. Questions? aliceworks@aol.com.

LARCHMONT/MAMARONECK LWV – Monthly coffee meeting on **Friday, October 5th** from 8:45 AM to 10:15 AM at Café Mozart, 123 Mamaroneck Ave., in Village next to Sal’s Pizzeria. Ann Cochran, President of the LWV of Rye, Rye Brook and Portchester, will speak about the new **Smart Voter** website.

NEW CASTLE LWV – Fall luncheon, Wednesday, October 10th at 12 noon at Crabtree’s Kittle House, 11 Kittle Road, Chappaqua. Topic: “**Universal Health Care: How Can We Achieve It?**” Guest Speakers will be Mary Ann Baily, Associate for Ethics & Health Policy at the Hastings Center, and Lindsay Farrell, President and CEO of Open Door Family Medical Centers. Luncheon: \$42 per person. Send checks payable to LWV of New Castle and send to: Evelyn Bloom, 5 Woodmill Road, Chappaqua, NY 10514. For more information: lwvnewcastle@optonline.net.

SCARSDALE LWV – Annual Food for Thought Luncheon, Friday, October 26th at 11:45 AM to 2:00 PM. at the Scarsdale Golf Club, 1 Club Way, Hartsdale. **Topic: The National Popular Vote.** The LWVUS believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. Learn more about this exciting idea. Our guest speaker is a representative from National Popular Vote Inc. whose mission is to study, analyze and educate the public regarding the proposal to implement a nationwide popular election of the President of the United States. Luncheon: \$40 per person (\$45 after Oct. 12). Make check payable to LWVUS and send to Barbara Schwartz, 97 Greenacres Ave., Scarsdale, NY 10583. Questions? Contact Adie Shore at absnyny@aol.com or 472-5175

PRESS RELEASE – September 9, 2007 From: The League of Women Voters of Westchester

Westchester voters just got smarter. With www.SmartVoter.org, county residents now have an interactive source for non-partisan voting information, thanks to the efforts of the League of Women Voters of Westchester. Just in time for the September 18th Primary Elections, the League website is ready to provide Westchester voters with easy access to personalized local election information. Don’t know your specific polling place or hours? Unsure what offices are being contested? Care to see a sample ballot before you vote? Want to learn more about the candidates’ experience, credentials, and endorsements? Smart Voters can simply type in their address and, with the click of a mouse, find all this useful, non-partisan information and more. The website also allows users to view results of recent and past elections. While the League of Women Voters of Westchester will continue to publish and distribute its traditional Voters Guide, both in English and Spanish, in time for general elections, www.SmartVoter.org now provides county voters with a continuously updated source of election information. Don’t have a personal computer? Most local libraries provide access to www.SmartVoter.org on their public computers.



Ida Trager Regional Training Workshops

The State Board and Your Local League (LL) Working Together: Voter Service/Membership/ Financial Support/ State Study on National Popular /Other

See the 2007 schedule below and make your reservation to join members from your state board when they come to your area to facilitate training, dialogue, and an active networking opportunity among local Leagues. **Share information and a light meal** with state League president, Martha Kennedy, VPs Marcia Merrins (membership), Maggie Moehringer (Voter Service), and Betsey Swan (development) as well as other state board members.

SEPTEMBER 26 Western NY 11:00am – 3:00pm
Harlem Road Community Center 4255 Harlem Road,
Amherst, NY 14226 716-631-7200

October 4 Long Island 11:00am – 3:00 pm
Farmingdale University, 2350 Broadhollow Road
Farmingdale, NY - Knapp Hall (Peachtree Lounge)

October 5 Westchester County 11:00pm - 3:00pm
Scarsdale Public Library-Olmsted Road and Rt 22

OCTOBER 20 Central NYS 11:00am – 3:00pm
Tompkins/Cortland Community College "TC3" Rm.210B
Off Rt. 13 in Dryden; from No: left @ 1st traffic light/
from So: rt. @ 3rd traffic light. Left into 1st pkg. Lot. 1st bldg.
by circular drive with flags sculpture & TC3 sign in front.

November 15 Capital Region 4:00pm – 8:00 pm
Shenendehowa Senior Citizen Center
6 Clifton Common Court, Clifton Park, NY 12065

November 26 New York City 4:00pm – 7:30pm
45 E33St. (Between Park and Madison Ave) NY, NY 10016
RM.331

GOALS

1. Foster strong relationships between the LWWNYS and LWW local Leagues, boards and members
2. Foster strong relationships among local Leagues within regions
3. Problem solve among local and state LWWNYS leaders.
4. Identify the best ideas/ people to move LWWNYS forward
5. Provide a consistent annual platform for open and intimate dialogue, problem solving and visioning

Workshops are hosted by area LLs who will make arrangements for food. To show our appreciation for their efforts on behalf of all, please RSVP as soon as possible. Contact the office (see below) if you have any questions. Telephone or written multiple registrations are happily accepted. Thank you!!

OPEN TO INTERESTED LEAGUE MEMBERS & FRIENDS

PLEASE CLIP AND SEND TO:
**LWWNYS, 62 GRAND STREET
ALBANY, NY 12207**
Or Fax 518-465-0812 (Credit Card Only)
Phone: 518-465-4162

NAME:

LOCAL LEAGUE:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

TELEPHONE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

WORKSHOP I WISH TO ATTEND

September 26 th	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Western NY
October 4 th	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Long Island
October 5 th	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Westchester
October 20 th	11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Central NY
November 15 th	4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Capital Region
November 26 th	4:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	New York City

ENCLOSED IS MY REGISTRATION FEE OF \$5

My check is enclosed (payable to LWWNYS)

Charge my: Mastercard VISA
 Discover American Express

Cardholder's Name:

Exp. Date:

Card Number:

Signature:

What Kind of Voting Machine Will You Be Voting On This Fall?

The answer isold faithful, lever machines! Under the NYS HAVA statute of 2005, New York was required to replace our lever voting machines in September 2006. However, since we did not have any certified machines by that time, the US DOJ imposed a series of deadlines for 2006, primarily to implement the federal mandate for provision of accessible voting. This plan, called the "Plan B" solution, required counties to provide at least one ballot marking device in a location to be determined by that county for use by anyone, disabled or non-disabled. The court order was in effect only for 2006. New York still does not have certified machines for the fall elections nor will have for the foreseeable future. What to do? The obvious solution was to extend the "Plan B" solution indefinitely. When the Legislature adjourned in June they had not addressed the issue. A Message of Necessity from Governor Spitzer forced a solution when they met in July and so until machines are certified and available for purchase by the counties, we will be using lever voting machines and ballot marking devices for anyone who chooses to vote on them, without restriction. For 2007, counties will probably not expand the number they purchased in 2006 (Albany County purchased one ballot marker and placed it at the County board of elections office at Westgate Center on Central Ave. in Albany). Arguably, one ballot marker is not adequate to serve the needs of the target population who may not have reasonable transportation to the board of elections office.

At the August 15th meeting of the New York State Board of Elections, the commissioners voted to support a proposal which *requires counties to provide one ballot marker at every polling place for 2008*. If New York still has not certified machines for use, accessibility will be assured for persons in need of enhanced voting equipment.

To review: *ballot marking devices do not count votes*: they allow a voter to make his/her selection with the aid of a mechanical device on a paper ballot which is then removed from the marker and inserted into a manila envelope for counting at the end of the voting period. You, or any other qualified voter, can use the device at the county board of elections without notifying the board of your intent in advance. Simply appear at the offices during regular voting hours for the primary or general election and follow the instructions. I voted on the device last year and found it very easy – you can too!

Aimee Allaud
Elections specialist, NYSLWV

SAVE THESE DATES!

Wednesday, November 28, 2007
At the United Nations in NYC

"Briefings on the Effects of War on Women Around the World", sponsored by LWNYS in association with the United Nations Department of Public Information. Details to follow.

Thursday, November 29, 2007
Cortlandt Town Hall

Global Warming Forum, presented by Assemblywoman Sandy Galef, with speakers from NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Natural Resources Defense Council and Environmental Advocates of New York. More details in next County Voter.

TO: Local League Presidents and Advocacy & Issue Chairs
FROM: Roberta Wiernik, Off-Board Specialist, Natural Resources
E-mail: RFWiernik@aol.com

WHAT ISSUES DOES THE LWVNYS OFF-BOARD SPECIALIST ON NATURAL RESOURCES HANDLE?

Areas of expertise:

- 1 Water quality: Chaired/ participated in three studies on sewage disposal and storm water. Currently, advocating for a county law on septic management.
- 2 Pesticides: Public education: produced one of first county-wide educational brochures, "How to Have a Beautiful Garden Without Treating Your Health Like Dirt (a LWVNYS Award winner!). Initiated legislation for Westchester County Pesticide Reduction Law; now chair the Westchester County Pest Management Committee to implement the law.
- 3 Waste Management: Helped design and promote a waste reduction/recycling program, "Environmental Shopping", with a strong emphasis on reduce and reuse and awareness of household toxics; this local league program won a national award which enabled us to promote the training packet nationally. Also published a recipe book of non-toxic household products.
- 4 Bigger, Better, Bottle Bill---advocated for the passage of this environmentally friendly bill in the 2007 legislative session.
- 5 Some experience in energy conservation.

Now that you know the issues that I handle, how can I help your local League? I am happy to share my experiences/expertise with your local League, please feel free to e-mail me for additional information.

SAVE THE DATE!

(But make your reservations asap)

LWW FUND RAISER

THE MOISEYEV DANCE COMPANY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2008

5 PM

Orchestra Tickets: \$55

RSVP: Kitt Rosenthal, 723-5126, kitr@optonline.net

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White Plains Mall, 200 Hamilton Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601
Telephone: (914) 949-0507 Fax: (914) 997-9354

ORDER FORM 2007 DIRECTORY OF OFFICIALS *Westchester County Cities, Towns, and Villages*

The Directory of Officials, published annually by the League of Women Voters of Westchester, is a compact booklet which includes the names and contact information of all elected and many appointed officials for Westchester at county, city, town and village governments, and federal government and judicial positions. In addition, it contains maps, plus voter registration, election and other useful information.

Individual copies of the *Directory of Officials* are \$5 plus \$1 each for postage and handling. For further information, including rates for volume orders, call 949-0507, or e-mail LWVwestchester@verizon.net.

Please send me _____ copies of the League of Women Voters Westchester Directory of Officials. Checks should be made out to LWV of Westchester.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Number of copies _____ \$6 (including postage and handling) _____
TOTAL Enclosed _____

Please send to LWV of Westchester, 200 Hamilton Ave. White Plains, NY 10601

ORDER /RENEWAL FORM – LWW COUNTY VOTER – 2007-2008

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-mail _____

Are you currently a League Member? League _____

If not, do you wish to receive membership information from the nearest local League?? _____

To subscribe: Please send check for \$10 payable to the LWV of Westchester to:

LWV of Westchester, 200 Hamilton Ave., White Plains, NY 10601

COUNTY VOTER

League of Women Voters of Westchester
White Plains Mall, 200 Hamilton Ave., White Plains, NY 10601

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IMPORTANT DATES

Oct 4	9:30 AM	LWVW Executive Board Meeting	Com.Unitarian Ch. 468 Rosedale Ave White Plains
Oct 5	11AM/3PM	Ida Trager Workshop	Scarsdale Library
Oct 18	9:30 AM	How To Read a County Budget	Michaelian Building
Nov 1	9:30 AM	LWVW Executive Board Meeting	Com.Unitarian Ch.
Nov 6	6AM/9PM	Election Day	Usual Polling Places
